

BAY DELTA ADVISORY COUNCIL ASSURANCES WORKSHOP

WORKSHOP INFORMATION PACKET

**May 15, 1997
Sacramento**



**CALFED
BAY-DELTA
PROGRAM**



CALFED
BAY-DELTA
PROGRAM

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Date: May 5, 1997

To: Interested Individuals and Organizations

From: Lester A. Snow, Executive Director
CALFED Bay-Delta Program

Subject: Assurances Workshop

Please join us for the Assurances Workshop on May 15, 1997 from 1:00-5:00 p.m. at the Capitol Plaza, 1025 Ninth Street, in Sacramento. The workshop will provide an opportunity for participants to review preliminary alternatives meant to assure that a long-term CALFED Bay-Delta Program solution can be implemented and operated as agreed.

The CALFED Bay-Delta Program (Program) is a joint state-federal effort seeking to develop a long-term comprehensive plan that will restore ecological health and improve water management for beneficial uses of the Bay-Delta system. Once a solution has been identified, the CALFED agencies need to assure the solution will be implemented and operated as agreed. Because a long-term solution is likely to be made up of numerous individual actions implemented over a number of years, the Program will identify a package of assurances comprised of a number of differing tools to assure implementation of the solution and govern its operation.

Through assurances, the Program is not attempting to craft the ultimate solution or to guarantee the outcome of a solution. Assurances, like financing, are part of an implementation strategy. For example, the specific actions to meet habitat or water supply goals will be part of the solution, while assurances are the mechanisms and tools used to ensure those actions are implemented and operated as agreed.

In addition to developing a package of assurances, the Program will also develop a process to address circumstances that may prevent a key component of the solution from being implemented or operated as agreed in order to give a long-term solution the ability to adjust to changing circumstances.

CALFED Agencies

California

The Resources Agency
Department of Fish and Game
Department of Water Resources
California Environmental Protection Agency
State Water Resources Control Board

Federal

Environmental Protection Agency
Department of the Interior
Fish and Wildlife Service
Bureau of Reclamation
Department of Commerce
National Marine Fisheries Service

Process for Developing Assurances

The CALFED Bay-Delta Program, together with the Bay-Delta Advisory Council (BDAC), a federally-chartered citizens advisory committee, has established a working group to formulate, discuss, analyze and recommend appropriate assurance mechanisms. The Assurances Work Group has been meeting since August 1996. Thus far the group has identified the Program elements, stakeholder concerns, a list of assurance tools, a variety of management structures to oversee implementation, and guidelines to help govern the selection of assurances. These items are included in this workshop package in the "Background Materials" section. This information will be described briefly, but is not the focus of the workshop.

This workshop will focus on five alternatives intended to assure implementation of a case study. Because it is difficult to craft assurances for a solution that has not yet been identified, the Work Group developed, and this workshop will use, a case study that depicts a mock long-term solution for which assurances are needed. The case study includes some program elements that will be included in any solution, and some that may or may not be part of a solution. The case study provides the mechanism for taking discussions from the abstract to the definitive. The case study and the preliminary assurance alternatives are also included in this package.

Workshop participants are asked to review the materials in this package and to participate in facilitated small group discussions analyzing the preliminary alternatives. Participants will be asked to assess the assurance alternatives for a number of factors including, but not limited to: (1) whether the alternative is consistent with the guidelines; (2) how well the alternative assures implementation of all Program elements; (3) whether the assurance adequately addresses the issues and concerns voiced by stakeholders; and (4) the level of confidence the assurance alternative provides for implementing and operating the case study.

Once the CALFED Bay-Delta Program identifies a preferred alternative, the assurance alternatives crafted for the case study will be modified to specifically address the elements of the preferred alternative. The resulting assurance alternatives will be described in a report on implementation strategies to be released with the Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Report and Statement (EIR/EIS) in the Fall 1997.

Following release of the Draft Programmatic EIR/EIS, the Program and the Work Group will continue to refine the package of assurances. A final package of assurances will be described at the time a Final Programmatic EIR/EIS is released.

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Further Information

The Assurances Work Group holds regular meetings approximately every six weeks. In addition, the Program maintains a mailing list to whom relevant information is mailed in advance of the Work Group meetings.

If you have questions, or would like further information, contact the CALFED Bay-Delta Program at (916) 657-2666.